## Abstract

The present invention is to provide a method for producing the desired optically active  $\beta$ -amino acid derivatives of high optical purities in high yields, without requiring a step of deprotection. More particularly, the present invention relates to a method for producing an optically active  $\beta$ -amino acid derivative or a salt thereof represented by the formula (2):

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which comprises reacting an  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid derivative or a salt thereof represented by the formula (1):

with an amines or a salt thereof in the presence of a chiral

catalyst and in the presence or absence of an acid.

$$R^2 \xrightarrow{R^1} 0 \\ R^3$$
 (1)

R<sup>3</sup>